

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope, with sufficient postage, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

January 14, 2004

Date of Deposit

Richard E. Stanley, Jr.

Name of Applicant, Assignee or  
Registered Representative



Signature

Jan. 14 2004

Date of Signature

Our Case No.: 8627-368

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Darin G. Schaeffer and Michael C. Hoffa

Examiner: pending

Serial No.: pending

Group Art Unit No.: pending

Filing Date: January 14, 2004

For: INTRODUCER

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents listed below and on the attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record. Copies of the listed documents required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

The references now cited are the following:

<b>U.S. Patent No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
4,699,611	10/13/87	Bowden
5,108,416	04/28/92	Ryan et al.
5,415,664	05/16/96	Pinchuk
5,456,694	10/10/95	Marin et al.
5,569,296	10/29/96	Marin et al.
5,593,412	01/14/97	Martinez et al.
5,707,376	01/13/98	Kavteladze et al.
5,810,871	09/22/98	Tuckey et al.
5,980,533	11/09/99	Holman
6,152,944	11/28/00	Holman et al.
6,168,617 B1	09/02/01	Blaeser et al.
6,379,365 B1	04/30/02	Diaz
6,387,118 B1	05/14/02	Hanson
6,391,050 B1	05/21/02	Broome
6,416,529 B1	07/09/02	Holman et al.
6,520,983 B1	02/18/03	Colgan et al.
6,562,049 B1	05/13/03	Norlander et al.
6,607,551 B1	08/19/03	Sullivan et al.
6,626,934 B2	09/30/03	Blaeser et al.
US 2001/0007082 A1	07/05/01	Dusbabek et al.
US 2001/0049547 A1	12/06/01	Moore

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g),(h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be construed to be an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of the first Official Action reflecting an examination on the merits and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). No fees are believed to be due in connection with filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to these material, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

Applicant(s) respectfully request that the listed documents be made of record in  
the present case.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO-1449	SERIAL NO. pending	CASE NO. 8627-368
<b>LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>  (use several sheets if necessary)	FILING DATE January 14, 2004	GROUP ART UNIT pending
	APPLICANT(S): Darin G. Schaeffer et al.	

**REFERENCE DESIGNATION**      **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER Number-Kind Code (if known)	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
A1	4,699,611	10/13/87	Bowden	604/51	4/85
A2	5,108,416	04/28/92	Ryan et al.	606/194	2/90
A3	5,415,664	05/16/96	Pinchuk	606/108	3/94
A4	5,456,694	10/10/95	Marin et al.	606/198	5/94
A5	5,569,296	10/29/96	Marin et al.	606/198	6/95
A6	5,593,412	01/14/97	Martinez et al.	606/108	5/95
A7	5,707,376	01/13/98	Kavteladze et al.	606/108	6/95
A8	5,810,871	09/22/98	Tuckey et al.	606/198	4/97
A9	5,980,533	11/09/99	Holman	606/108	6/98
A10	6,152,944	11/28/00	Holman et al.	606/194	3/98
A11	6,168,617 B1	09/02/01	Blaeser et al.	623/1.11	6/99
A12	6,379,365 B1	04/30/02	Diaz	606/108	6/99
A13	6,387,118 B1	05/14/02	Hanson	623/1.11	4/00
A14	6,391,050 B1	05/21/02	Broome	623.1.11	2/00
A15	6,416,529 B1	07/09/02	Holman et al.	606/194	3/00
A16	6,520,983 B1	02/18/03	Colgan et al.	623/1.11	3/99
A17	6,562,049 B1	05/13/03	Norlander et al.	606/108	11/00
A18	6,607,551 B1	08/19/03	Sullivan et al.	623/1.11	5/00
A19	6,626,934 B2	09/30/03	Blaeser et al.	623/1.11	1/01
A20	US 2001/0007082 A1	07/05/01	Dusbabek et al.	623/1.11	2/01
A21	US 2001/0049547 A1	12/06/01	Moore	623/1.11	2/01

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER Number-Kind Code (if known)	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES OR NO

EXAMINER INITIAL	OTHER ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS (Include name of author, title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.